

January 16, 2000

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
& Co-Chair of the President's Council on Food Safety
200 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

5221 '00 FEB -1 AIO :36

Dear Secretary Shalala,

We are writing to express our concern about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food which is being considered by the Food & Drug Administration. We believe it is our right to know if the food we eat has been irradiated and to choose not to eat irradiated food. Events of the past few years with respect to the FDA's handling of food safety issues proves that this agency is riddled with polluting industry operatives and its highest officials are agents of those corporations, bent not on achieving food safety but on achieving greater profits for industry. We have no faith whatsoever that the FDA has our best interests at heart.

Food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. Tests show some of these changes may be creating carcinogens. We protest that our right to avoid such foods will be trampled by an industry-owned FDA if proper food labeling requirements are weakened.

These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated food.

But we do not accept the irradiation of food as a crutch to support the perpetuation of filthy slaughterhouse and food processing conditions throughout America. The scandal of slaughterhouse conditions is worse now than when Upton Sinclair first blew the whistle on the Chicago stockyards. A number of studies have shown that there frequent epidemics of food poisoning ongoing in our nation, which are not being eradicated or prevented by our Dept of Health & Human Services. This Department is derelict in its duty to the People of America.

We feel that food irradiation compromises the health of people who eat such treated food and is a disgrace in which our government is complicit. As a widespread practice to "fix" the problems of an industrialized meat industry, it is a crime against the People of America by our elected and appointed officials.

98N-1038

- 1 -

C5055

over

Acknowledging the limitations on your ability to protect the health and safety* of the American People because of corporate power, we, nevertheless, hope that you will defend the consumers' right to know in this important decision-making process. The grand intent of Industrial America to deny the public the right to choose is the most hostile outcome of the corporatization of America, and will only bear bitter fruit.

Art & Cindy Strauss

Sincerely, Art & Cindy Strauss, 187 Acton Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214-3303, Phone: 614-267-4047, e-mail: artstrauss@iwaynet.net

Food.Safety.Shalala.2k0116

MAC/HD/LtrsToOfficials.2K

S

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Strauss
187 Acton Rd
Columbus, OH 43214



DONNA SHALALA, SECRETARY
U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
& CO-CHAIR OF PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON
FOOD SAFETY
200 INDEPENDENCE AVE, S.W.
WASHINGTON DC 20201

